



Wheaton Area Schools

Independent School District #803
Wheaton, MN 56296

October 28, 2013

Federal Communications Commission
Re: Proceeding 13-184

To Whom It May Concern:

I am corresponding to provide Comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate program has been of great importance to our community. It has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with Wheaton Area Schools current and future bandwidth needs. I urge you to consider raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a Technology Director in rural Minnesota, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

At Wheaton Area Schools we use digital learning to harmonize collaboration between students and staff, personalize and differentiate instruction, offer additional class offerings and perform online assessments. The usage continuously diversifies and will continue to with the nexus that is technology and communications.

Wheaton Area Schools' network is currently being outpaced by demand, and the need for additional higher-speed reliable networks is only going to increase in the near future. The bottom line is that this will have a huge impact on student achievement.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.

Jacob Veldhouse
Director of Technology
Wheaton Area Schools